

**Village of Indian Head Park  
201 Acacia Drive  
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/c.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken.”*

Thursday, November 10, 2011

7:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER – PRESIDENT PRO-TEM BRIAN BAILEY**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Brian Bailey. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

**ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK**

**PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):**

Trustee Debbie Anselmo  
Trustee Brian T. Bailey (as President Pro-Tem)  
Trustee Carol Coleman  
Trustee Anne Bermier  
Trustee Norman L. Schnauffer  
Trustee Matthew P. Walsh

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration  
Steve Busa, Treasurer  
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk  
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin  
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

**NOT PRESENT:**

Mayor Richard Andrews (prior personal commitment)

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

President Pro-Tem Brian Bailey and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *"I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all"*.

## **PRESIDENT PRO-TEM REPORT AND TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

President Pro-Tem Brian Bailey stated tonight is the first meeting of the Board of Trustees since the tragedy that occurred in our Village on October 27, 2011. He further stated many speakers who are much more eloquent have tried to put words to this horrible random act of violence that occurred in our Village. Words cannot begin to explain what happened and we cannot as a Village begin to express our deepest condolences to the O'Laughlin family. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated two weeks ago tonight Indian Head Park lost one of its bright shining stars, Kelli Joy O'Laughlin. The entire Board and audience members paused for a moment of silence in memory of Kelli and to honor the O'Laughlin family.

President Pro-Tem Bailey stated the Village intends to honor Kelli in a more formal manner and the Board will speak with Kelli's parents when they are ready to discuss some ideas to seek their input. He noted when that information becomes available it will be offered to everyone in the Village. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated that words cannot begin to make sense of the tragedy that occurred in Indian Head Park. What happened two weeks ago not only affected the Village but neighboring towns and beyond. He added that even in our darkest hour, the residents of Indian Head Park came together to do what they could to get through this horrible tragedy and to try to heal our community. Whether it was tying white ribbons throughout the town, going to the wake or funeral, holding a candle at the vigil or lining 55<sup>th</sup> Street and Wolf Road to form a human chain during the funeral procession, we all did whatever we could do to try to comfort the O'Laughlin family and to try to bring some peace to our community. President Pro-Tem Bailey further stated that countless individuals, businesses and strangers donated their time, their funds, food and beverages to the Police Department and South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force Team and whatever else they could to help in the efforts to solve this crime and to bring the person responsible for Kelli's murder to justice. He added that perhaps the most touching story was from the women in the front office who told him the story of a young woman of high school age who had her mother drive her to the Village Offices to write a check emptying her checking account because she wanted to donate money to the Kelli O'Laughlin reward fund. He pointed out that we all need to continue to work in this spirit together in order to get through this and we cannot let our anger at the crime that happened in this Village to prevent us from channeling our efforts to work together.

President Pro-Tem Brian Bailey stated as to the investigation, please be assured that the Village of Indian Head Park Municipal Facility was active 24 hours a day, seven days a weeks for the full week until the individual responsible for this horrible crime was apprehended and charged.

Whether it was the administrative staff, Chief Frank Alonzo, the approximate fifty (50) officers from the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force and our very own police officers and staff, countless hours and effort was spent in supporting those that were working to bring the person responsible for Kelli's murder to justice. On behalf of the Village, President Pro-Tem Bailey thanked all of the law enforcement officers, especially Chief Alonzo, Sergeant Curt Novak and all the other Indian Head Park police officers for working to solve this crime and bringing some comfort to the O'Laughlin family in knowing that the person who perpetrated this crime has been locked up and will be brought to justice. He added the Village will take whatever steps are feasible, legal and realistic to assure the safety and comfort of our residents, we will continue to make our officers and officials available to the press to discuss pressing issues, we will issue and deliver alerts and fliers, we will offer information on the Village's Website and the Village will continue to host the monthly community awareness meetings. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated the next community awareness meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> in the Board Room, the Board is also exploring a reverse 911 system to make calls to residents, e-mail options are also being explored and any other methods to determine the feasibility and uses of such systems. Additionally, Village Clerk Joe Consolo is working with the Cook County Sheriff's Department to try to obtain information on developing a community watch program and the Board is also open to other options that residents might have to offer. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated the Board is glad to see everyone in attendance this evening at the meeting as well as those that have attended the community awareness meetings. He asked residents to share their ideas because the Board wants to hear from residents and coming together as a community to share ideas is the best way to respond for the future challenges of the Village and to heal the wounds that the Village has sustained.

Trustee Bermier stated that she did not have an opportunity to meet Kelli O'Laughlin but she feels like she got to know her through comments and remarks of her friends. Her friends said she did not have a mean bone in her body and that she would often go up to friends and say "How are you doing". If a friend refused to talk or open up, Kelli would not give up and she would keep trying to talk to them and would listen when they decided to talk. Trustee Bermier stated last week at the funeral, Kelli's older brother stated : "I want you all to remember that Kelli is next to you. I want you to know that Kelli would ask you all to look out for one another and care for your family and friends." Trustee Bermier stated this was a good message and we all need to look out for one another and care for others.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of a Resolution to Determine the Estimated Levy for 2011 for the Village of Indian Head Park (**Resolution #R11-01-11**).*

*Approval of a Municipal Services Snow Plow Agreement between Chestnut on the Green Association and the Village of Indian Head Park.*

*Reappointment of Thomas Brescia as the Village's Prosecuting Attorney for the term ending November 13, 2012.*

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

*Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

## **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT – TREASURER STEVE BUSA**

*Approval of Financial Report for the month ending October 13, 2011*

Treasurer Busa presented the financial report for the month ending October 31, 2011. For the month of October, he noted: total revenues were \$457,357.60; expenditures were \$262,331.44 and fund balances in all accounts at the end of October were \$765,797.46.

Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to approve the financial report for the month ending October 31, 2011 as presented by Treasurer Busa. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

*Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

## **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – October 13, 2011*

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to approve the October 31, 2011 regular Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

## **QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Karen Sebatis, of 7211 Wolf Road, thanked the Village Board, Chief Alonzo and all police officers for a fine job in solving this horrible crime in the Village. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated the entire Board feels the same way and cannot begin to describe the efforts that were put forth by many individuals and the thanks is truly appreciated.

Craig Fisher, from the Indian Head Park Homeowners Association, stated the association held a meeting about a week ago to talk about how we as homeowners can improve security and communications throughout the community. He noted that some Village Board members were in attendance at the meeting as well as Clerk Joe Consolo. Mr. Fisher stated that the association will be establishing a neighborhood watch program to notify residents by e-mail as well as compiling a resident directory with phone numbers to alert residents. Mr. Fisher stated some residents were concerned about what is happening in the neighborhood and how that information is conveyed to residents.

Frank Faron, from the Indian Head Park Homeowners Association, noted some recommendations from Association meeting as follows: (1) possibly robocalls to residents on criminal activity; (2) additional information on the Village's Website such as a link to crime data information; (3) more frequent police patrols including foot patrols and bicycle patrols; (4) slower patrols through the community by the Police Department; (5) possibly install security cameras at the Plainfield Road entrance and at Sacajawea Park; (6) have the tollway complete the expressway sound abatement walls where there are gaps to prevent access and provide better lighting and; (7) security checks for all workers in the Village. Craig Fisher stated these are just ideas being presented to the Board. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated we as a Village appreciate the ideas presented, the Board is already looking into some of these suggestions and every option and the Board will do whatever it can to make the residents feel some comfort.

Randy Dvorak, of Acacia Circle, stated he has been a resident of Indian Head Park for over thirty-five (35) years. He suggested that the Board propose a concealed carry handgun permit for Indian Head Park residents only. Mr. Dvorak further stated that all of the other suggestions are great but the police cannot be everywhere at every moment and allowing a concealed carry handgun permit would be a deterrent to criminals. Trustee Bermier asked if that would be a violation of State law. Mr. Dvorak stated that it would not be a violation of State law unless it is challenged and 50% of ordinances passed by Villages could be challenged in court but many times they are not challenged. Mr. Dvorak stated that the police department could run a background check, fingerprint the applicant, take a photo identification on any permit holder and could deny a permit to someone with a felony conviction. He added that forty-nine (49) states allow a concealed carry handgun permit and Illinois does not have it. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated crime has no boundaries and Indian Head Park is not alone. He added anyone that has watched the news recently has been following the stories in neighboring towns with burglaries in Burr Ridge, Western Springs and a home invasion in Willowbrook and the Board will take it under consideration and counsel will determine whether it is feasible to have a concealed carry handgun permit. Mr. Dvorak stated he travels all over the country and has a concealed carry handgun permit in 43 states and there are no problems with it.

Rita Farrell-Mayer, of Pontiac Drive, stated that colleges, universities, and high schools have the ability to send e-mail alerts out to parents of students in those schools when a crisis arises and possibly a similar notification program could be a source for the police department. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated that the Board is looking into various options and will also talk to neighboring communities on their process for notifying residents. Rita Farrell-Mayer further stated that she is not in favor of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program that periodically comes into town to allow people arrested for various issues to serve community service by cleaning parkways and drainage areas. She added that the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force was looking at those individuals during the investigation. Chief Frank Alonzo stated that the Village will not be using the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program anymore, the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program was not a suspect and the Crimes Task Force followed every and all leads in the case because at that time the task force was not sure who the offender was and followed every bit of information.

Mo Javadi, of Blackhawk Trail, thanked Chief Alonzo, the police department and South Suburban Crimes Task Force for all they did to solve this crime. He added Indian Head Park has always been a safe community and with the help of residents safety and security of the Village is most important. Mr. Javadi stated that several residents have signed a petition to request that the Village install a street light on the corner in various locations in the Village because it is too dark in those locations. Mr. Javadi also stated that Buckthorn trees are overgrown everywhere, he will maintain the area that is his responsibility on his property but Buckthorn trees between his property which is easement area is the Village's responsibility to maintain. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated the Village will look into the matter.

Chris Metz, of Arrowhead Court, stated he has concerns with the Village Website where more frequent updates need to be provided to residents, most residents did not know why helicopters were hovering over their homes the evening of the horrible crime and if police were looking for a suspect or if someone was at large. Mr. Metz stated that the Village website is a great way to keep the residents informed of what is happening in the community and he suggested that more frequent updates on the site be provided to residents. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated that daily updates and statements were being updated on the Website but the Village could not disclose any specific details of the case while it was under investigation. He added that daily press conferences were also publicized over every media station on what was happening in the Village. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated that the Village has run on a very tight budget for many years and does not have big car dealerships or big box stores to provide a big tax base but is looking for sources of revenue to further enhance the Village's Website. He added the Board is doing the best it can with resources that are available.

Chief Alonzo stated that he does not want this discussion to become a political issue or about finances when the focus at hand is the loss of an innocent beautiful little girl. Chief Alonzo pointed out that even during the investigation if the Village had a Website that was running with continuous updates, he would not have left the investigation to post what the helicopters were doing. He added this was an on-going hot investigation with many tips and there were police officers all over the community talking to people and handing out fliers. Chief Alonzo stated he would not have put anything on the Website that would jeopardize the on-going investigation because we did not know who we were searching for in the beginning and did not want to alert the offender what we were doing. Chief Alonzo pointed out that during the investigation very quick decisions were made to put the helicopter up for reasons that cannot be disclosed because the case is on-going and other decisions were also made that the public could not know. Chief Alonzo stated during the investigation, sometimes information would come in on a moment's notice and the South Suburban Major Crimes Task followed those leads.

Trustee Coleman stated that the Website is a great idea but not everyone has a computer or access to a computer. She added that the Board is also looking at options that would keep all residents informed. Mr. Metz stated that updates on the Village Website would have been helpful to residents. Mr. George Dvorak, of Acacia Circle, stated that channels 2, 5, 7, 9 and Fox News gave residents a lot of information on the daily news every night about what was happening and the Municipal Building parking lot was full every day and night with officers working around the clock to solve the crime. Mr. George Dvorak stated that it appears Chief Alonzo and the Board was keeping the residents very well informed on what was going on each day through the media.

Chief Alonzo stated he tried to give regular press briefings for information that could be released on the case to keep residents informed but specific details could not be disclosed. Trustee Walsh stated that the Board will explore various ideas for the best option to notify the entire community. He noted there were some concerns about the e-mail concept if those e-mails could become available under the Freedom of Information Act if someone asked for our database for political or other purposes. Trustee Walsh stated the robocall concept (or reverse 911 concept) would probably be the best way to reach all residents for crime alerts, it is expensive to implement and the Board will network with other Villages to determine how they notify their residents. Trustee Bermier stated that the Village of Western Springs just implemented an electronic alert system for their residents.

A resident in the audience, stated that there have been several incidents in town over the past few months and residents need to be made aware of crime alerts in the community. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated this is one reason the Village established the community awareness meetings to be able to talk to residents at those meetings, at the time of those incidents fliers were distributed to all households to alert residents and he encouraged all residents to attend the meetings because the Board wants to hear from residents who have something to say.

Heidi Lopez, of Glenbrook Lane, stated that she noticed the recent upgrades to the Heritage Center and pointed out that some Ashbrook streets have big gapping holes in some areas and asked when those would be fixed. President Pro-Tem Bailey stated that he is aware that some patching of the streets will be taking place in Ashbrook. Chief Alonzo stated the street areas in Ashbrook that have large holes will be fixed next week.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Schnaufer, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 8:15 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Leach, Deputy Village Clerk/Recording Secretary